1	2	3	4
12.	Department of Youth Affairs and Sports schemes	Youth Club Award-District, State and National Level.	15.72
13.	-do-	Youth Development Centre	50.00
14.	-do-	NSVs Training	18.59
15.	-do-	Financial Assistance for holding sports	01.30
16.	-do-	Sadhbhavana Programme	00.11
			4.71.358

Pilgrimage to Nankana Sahib

1395. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Sikh pilgrims of Jammu and Kashmir, who intend to visit Nankana Sahib in Pakistan, are being denied visa by Pakistan for the last few years;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the measures being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure the visit of these devotees to the Nankana Sahib?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (c). Government understand that Pakistan has denied visas to Sikh pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir who wished to go to Pakistan as part of the Sikh jathas under the Bilateral Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines, 1974.

Government believes that Pakistan's actions are contrary to the bilateral Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines. This has been conveyed to Pakistan through diplomatic channels.

Navigation in Bhagirathi-Hooghly River

1396. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any water navigation programme has been initiated in the Bhagirathi-Hooghly river in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Haldia-Banarashi river transport is going to be introduced soon; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system in West Bengal forms part of National Waterway No. 1 between Haldia and Allahabad. Inland Waterways Authority of India is maintaining navigable channel in Haldia-Patna sector including in Bhagirathi and Hooghly rivers in West Bengal between Haldia and Jangipur with 2m depth and 45 m width. The Bhagirathi-Hooghly river portion is being maintained for round the year navigation. In addition, for facilitating cargo loading and unloading, terminal facilities are available at Haldia-Budge-Budge and Calcutta in Bhagirathi-Hooghly rivers on national waterway No. 1. IWAI has taken up experimental cargo services through its vessel Rajagopalachari. In the Haldia-Calcutta sector navigation has been going on regularly for cargo and passengers.

(c) and (d). At present, the phased development of National Waterway No I the Haldia-Patna stretch is being developed for round the year navigation as the first phase. River Bed regulation to improve navigability upstream of Patna to Varanasi and Allahabad and provision of other infrastructure facilities are proposed to be taken up during 9th Five Year Plan. The waterway is open for plying of vessels by Government as well as private operators.

[Translation]

Barrage Over Yamuna

1397. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which the project of construction of a barrage over Yamuna at Agra is likely to be sanctioned by the Government;

(b) the total cost likely to be incurred on this project;

(c) the amount proposed to be contributed by the Union Government for this project;

(d) whether it is a fact that work has already been started on this project with the funds allocated by the Governor of Uttar Pradesh; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Clearance of the project will depend upon the promptness with which the State

Government complies with the observations of CWC/ other Central appraising agencies.

(b) The estimated cost of Agra Barrage Project is Rs. 100.01 crore as per 1996 price level.

(c) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Bypass in Assam

1398. SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that bypass road of National Highway 44 in Karimganj district. Assam is yet to be taken up for construction: and

(b) if so. the measures taken so far to construct the aforesaid bypass?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) the alignment for the bypass has been approved. The construction work can be taken up in a phased manner subject to availability of funds.

Drop-out Rate in Schools

1399. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the drop-out rate in schools has increased:

(b) if so. the details thereof: and

(c) the reasons and the remedial measures being taken by the Government to reduce it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) According to the available information. the drop-out rates in classes (I-V) and (I-VIII) have declined from 44.3% and 63.4% in 1990-91 to 30.3% and 52.7% respectively in 1994-95. This has been possible as a result of various measures taken by the Central Government and State Governments which include Micro-planning and community mobilisation: greater involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions: improvement of school environment and infrastructure through Operation Blackboard Scheme: incentives for girls and SC/ST students such as text books. uniforms and attendance scholarships: establishing and strengthening of institutions of teacher education: introduction of Minimum Levels of Learning and implementation of Mid-day Meals Programme.

Sea Wall in Kerala

1400. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether allocation of funds has been made to each coastal State this year for construction/maintenance of sea wall by the Union Government:

(b) whether the Government of Kerala has sought more funds from the Union Government for extension of sea wall: and

(c) if so. the details with reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Plan funds are provided to the States by the Planning Commission by way of block loans and grants. No separate allocation are made by the Union Government for construction/maintenance of sea wall as the same are included in Irrigation and Flood Control Sector in State Plan.

(b) and (c). The Government of Kerala has sought a special Central assistance of Rs 22.55 crore for anti sea erosion. river protection and desilting works in August. 1996. Since the work was essentially of maintance in nature. the State Government was advised to meet the requirement from the non-plan funds of the State Government.

[Translation]

Absorption of Ad-hoc Teachers in KVS

1401. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the instructions given by the Allahabad High Court regarding regularisation of services or absorption of teachers working on ad-hoc basis in the Kendriya Vidyalayas.

(b) if so. the details of the judgement: and

(c) the action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c). Yes. Sir. the judgement dated 13.5.93 given by the single Judge of the Hon'ble High Court of Judicature at Allahabad in Writ Petition No. 41730 of 1992 filed by Km. Manisha Verma *inter alia* provided for regularisation of services/absorption of such ad-hoc teachers who have worked for more than 3 years.

A special appeal No. 506 of 93 against the said judgement of Single judge was preferred by the Sangathan before the Division Bench. This special appeal succeeded and the Judgement dated 13.5.93 was set aside.